

# Decision proposed to be taken by the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety on 1 March 2017

## Approval for Submitting Grant Applications related to Domestic Violence and Abuse

### Recommendation

That the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety approves the submission of Grant Funding bids on behalf of the County Council in connection with Domestic Violence and Abuse as set out in the report.

### 1.0 Outline of Bids

- 1.1 It is a requirement of the County Council's procedures that Portfolio Holders approve Grant Funding Bids submitted on behalf of the County Council.

This report seeks such approval in relation to two bids connected with Domestic Violence and Abuse. Due to an oversight the first Grant Funding Bid did not seek approval prior to being submitted, approval is therefore asked for this retrospectively.

### 1.2 Grant Funding Bid 1

DCLG Domestic Violence and Abuse Accommodation Fund

In November 2016 the government published its "Priorities for Domestic Abuse Services" setting out what local areas need to put in place to make sure their approach to domestic abuse is collaborative, robust and effective. This funding stream has been awarded to local areas that will deliver on these priorities – for example by working collaboratively across local authority boundaries and with other partners, including specialist domestic violence service providers to strengthen accommodation based support for victim-survivors of domestic violence and abuse.

WCC worked in partnership with Refuge (our commissioned service provider) to bid for just short of £100,000.

The aims of the bid are to:

- Sustain specialist domestic violence and abuse refuge provision in northern Warwickshire.
- Improve access to refuge accommodation within northern Warwickshire for disabled women or women with disabled children.

- Improve living standards within the refuge accommodation in northern Warwickshire to increase client satisfaction.
- Improve outcomes for women accessing the refuge in this area.
- Support victims in rural communities, increasing access to a range of services such as mental health support, sexual health and substance misuse.

### 1.3 Grant Funding Bid 2

#### Home Office Violence Against Women and Girls Transformation Fund

The government have discontinued existing funding streams for all forms of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and replaced them with a single £15million, three-year VAWG Service Transformation Fund to aid, promote and embed the best local practice and ensure that early intervention and prevention become the norm, with the aim of 'making sure victims get the help they need when they need it, and that no victim is turned away'.

Warwickshire's VAWG Board have considered the existing needs assessments and the funding prospectus, and have agreed to prioritise a partnership bid to engage and support a trauma informed, gender sensitive service for women experiencing multiple disadvantage i.e. those who have experienced violence and abuse who also face mental health issues, alcohol/substance misuse issues, homelessness etc. This will also work to increase capacity in existing services through training and development work over the 3 years. In addition a bid will be submitted to develop community, peer led support for victims of sexual violence and abuse. This is being led by Warwickshire's specialist sexual violence service providers.

The total bid value will be up to £600,000 over three financial years. Any funding secured will be in addition to the existing resources committed by WCC and partner agencies, the funding, if successfully awarded, cannot be used to deliver existing 'core services'.

## **2.0 Financial Implications and Risks**

There are no inherent financial implications for the County Council in terms of submitting the bids other than the officer cost of working up and submitting the bids. The cost of activity will be met from within existing resources.

### **Background papers**

None

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